

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ALASKA SUPPLEMENT 02-2003
APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-517
JULY 14, 2003***

***Operations and Services
Public Weather Services, NWSPD 10-5
Multi-Purpose Weather Products Specification, NWSI 10-517
ALASKA MULTI-PURPOSE WEATHER PRODUCTS SPECIFICATION***

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This supplement describes variances in the Short Term Forecast policy in the Alaska Region. Section numbers in this supplement correspond to section numbers in NWSI 10-517.

signed	06/30/03
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Regional Director	

Multi Purpose Weather Products Specification

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1. Introduction. This supplement describes two variances in the Short Term Forecast policy in the Alaska Region compared to the procedures in National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-517. First, the responsibility for issuing Short Term Forecasts is shared with Weather Service Offices (WSO) in the Alaska Region. Second, NOWs may be issued on a routine basis, rather than an event-driven basis to serve local customer and partner requirements.

2. Short Term Forecast (NOW).

2.2 Issuance Guidelines. In the Alaska Region, Short Term Forecasts will be produced by WSOs in coordination with their area Weather Forecast Office (WFO). The zone areas for which WSOs will issue NOW products are given in Appendix A.

Coordination and collaboration between WFOs and WSOs is important. WFOs should be mindful of the NOWs prepared by WSOs within their area of responsibility to ensure consistency between zone and short term forecasts. Coordination is required if a WSO intends to issue a NOW that will contain information that conflicts with the WFO zone forecast.

2.2.2 Issuance Criteria. WFOs and WSOs should issue Short Term Forecasts to discuss the evolution of precipitation, convective events, winter weather, fog, significant winds, blowing dust, and extreme temperatures within their geographic area of responsibility. Local policy may require NOWs to be issued routinely, rather than on an event-driven basis, to address local customer and partner requirements. These procedures for NOW issuance will be documented locally by the WFO Meteorologist in Charge.

2.3 Technical Description.

2.3.3 Content. In addition to the guidance provided in NWSI 10-517, Alaska Region WSOs and WFOs should include a time reference in each NOW product to help ensure clarity in the short term trend being forecast. The time reference may be general, i.e., "BY LATE

MORNING,” but specificity is encouraged, i.e., “BY 11 AM.” Refer to Appendix B for additional examples.

Appendix A - Areas of Responsibility for Product Issuance**Table 1:** Zones for which short term forecasts are issued. The primary issuing office is listed in the second column.

Zone(s)	Issuing Office
022	WSO Yakutat
021, 023-026	WFO Juneau
027-029	WSO Annette
101	WFO Anchorage
131	WSO Valdez
151	WSO McGrath
155	WSO Bethel
161	WSO King Salmon
171	WSO Kodiak
181	WSO Cold Bay
195	WSO St. Paul
202	WSO Barrow
209	WSO Kotzebue
211	WSO Nome
222	WFO Fairbanks

Appendix B - NOW Examples

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1. Short Term Forecast.

FPAK78PAFC 272155

SHORT TERM FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ANCHORAGE AK
100 PM AST WED MAR 27 2003

AKZ101-280400-
ANCHORAGE AND VICINITY-
100 PM AST THU MAR 27 2003
.NOW...

SNOW WILL TAPER OFF BRIEFLY...EARLY THIS AFTERNOON. HOWEVER
RADAR SHOWS YET ANOTHER BAND OF MOISTURE MOVING UP THE INLET
TOWARD ANCHORAGE. ADDITIONAL ACCUMULATIONS OF 1 TO 3 INCHES OF
SNOW ARE POSSIBLE BY EVENING.

2. Short Term Forecast with Multiple Segments.

FPAK77 PAJK 130048
NOWJNU

SHORT TERM FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE JUNEAU AK
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

AKZ021-023-130700-
CAPE DECISION TO CAPE FAIRWEATHER COASTAL AREA-GLACIER BAY-
INCLUDING...PELICAN...SITKA...PORT ALEXANDER...GUSTAVUS
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...
...WIND ADVISORY INTO TONIGHT...

LOCALLY WINDY CONDITIONS WILL CONTINUE INTO THIS EVENING. EXPECT NORTHEAST WINDS 15 TO 25 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 55 MPH IN EXPOSED AREAS. A FEW FLURRIES ARE ALSO POSSIBLE.

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AKZ024-130700-
NORTHERN LYNN CANAL-
INCLUDING...SKAGWAY...HAINES
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...
...HIGH WIND WARNING INTO TONIGHT...
...WIND CHILL ADVISORY ABOVE 1000 FEET INTO TONIGHT...

VERY WINDY CONDITIONS WILL CONTINUE INTO THIS EVENING. EXPECT NORTH WINDS 25 TO 35 MPH WITH GUSTS IN EXCESS OF 60 MPH IN EXPOSED AREAS. DANGEROUS WIND CHILL TEMPERATURES TO 35 BELOW ZERO ARE LIKELY ABOVE 1000 FEET.

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AKZ025-130700-
JUNEAU BOROUGH+EASTERN CHICHAGOF+ADMIRALTY ISLAND-
INCLUDING...JUNEAU...HOONAH...ANGOON
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...
...HIGH WIND WARNING DOWNTOWN JUNEAU AND DOUGLAS INTO TONIGHT...

DANGEROUS NORTHEAST WINDS TO 45 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 70 MPH WILL CONTINUE IN DOWNTOWN JUNEAU AND DOUGLAS INTO THIS EVENING. ELSEWHERE...EXPECT NORTH WINDS TO 25 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 45 MPH.

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AKZ026-130700-
INNER CHANNELS FROM KUPREANOF ISLAND TO ETOLIN ISLAND-
INCLUDING...PETERSBURG...WRANGELL...KAKE
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...
...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT...

AREAS OF SNOW WILL BECOME MORE WIDESPREAD AND HEAVIER IN INTENSITY AFTER 6 PM. ADDITIONAL ACCUMULATIONS OF 3 TO 6 INCHES ARE EXPECTED BY LATE EVENING. LOW VISIBILITIES AND SNOWPACKED ROADS WILL MAKE FOR DANGEROUS DRIVING CONDITIONS. NORTHEAST WINDS TO 25 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 35 MPH WILL CONTINUE IN EXPOSED AREAS.

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3. Short Term Forecast with No Significant Weather (Routine Issuance).

FPAK77 PANT 240650
NOWANN

SHORT TERM FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ANNETTE AK
10 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

AKZ027>029-241300-
SOUTHERN INNER CHANNELS-DIXON ENTRANCE TO CAPE DECISION COASTAL
AREA-MISTY FJORDS-
INCLUDING... KETCHIKAN...METLAKATLA...CRAIG...KLAWOCK...HYDER
10 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...

INCREASING HIGH CLOUDS WITH LIGHT WINDS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH
EARLY MONDAY MORNING. TEMPERATURES WILL FALL BELOW FREEZING
SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT.

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4. Short Term Forecast with Correction.

FPAK77 PAYA 251928 **CCA**
NOWYAK

SHORT TERM FORECAST...**CORRECTED**
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE YAKUTAT AK
1028 AM AST WED MAR 25 2003

AKZ022-023-260100-
CAPE FAIRWEATHER TO CAPE SUCKLING COASTAL AREA-
INCLUDING YAKUTAT
1028 AM AST WED MAR 25 2003

CORRECTED FOR GRAMMAR

.NOW...

FOG AND A STEADY DRIZZLE WILL CONTINUE INTO THIS AFTERNOON.
VISIBILITIES ARE EXPECTED TO STAY BELOW 2 MILES IN MOST
LOCATIONS. TEMPERATURES WILL REMAIN AROUND 40 DEGREES WITH
LIGHT AND VARIABLE WINDS.

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